

November 24, 2009

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Office of General Counsel  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E. Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20463

OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL

RE: MUR 6222

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my understanding that churches are prohibited from contributing to Political Parties. It is my belief that any church that contributes to the Iowa Christian Alliance (ICA) has made a contribution to the Republican Party of Iowa. Therefore, I believe the West Hill United Methodist Church has violated their tax exempt status by contributing to the ICA.

In a previous letter I explained that I believe the ICA is involved in Republican Politics. I believe the majority of their efforts and financial resources focus on electing ICA officers and members to leadership within the Republican Party of Iowa, promoting and helping Republican candidates campaign for political office, and advancing the principles of the Republican Party.

In the attached article, Steve Scheffler, President of the Iowa Christian Alliance (ICA) admits that the ICA does invest its time and resources in electing Republican candidates.

According to the Associated Press, "Iowa conservatives targeting gay marriage" Mike Glover wrote, "Legislators who don't support that effort could find themselves facing opponents recruited and financed by the alliance, Scheffler said." Mr. Scheffler added, "We're going to encourage people, especially in key legislative races that are going to be competitive."

I looked for a retraction and when there was none I called Mike Glover on November 20, 2009. Mr. Glover said, "I was never contacted by Steve Scheffler or the ICA and told that what I wrote was false or untrue. I was never asked for a retraction."

It is my belief that Mr. Scheffler and the ICA participate in partisan politics, therefore, violating their tax exempt status. I believe the ICA recruits Republican candidates and invests in Republican campaigns.

Therefore, I believe that churches are prohibited from contributing to the Iowa Christian Alliance.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Stacey L. Cargill*  
Stacey L. Cargill

West Des Moines, IA 50266

Enclosure

cc: John McCormally  
Iowa Attorney General Office  
Hoover State Office Building  
1300 E. Walnut  
Des Moines, IA 50319

cc: Charlie Smithson  
Iowa Ethics & Campaign Disclosure Board  
510 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1 A  
Des Moines, IA 50319

cc: Dr. Arthur McClanahan, Director of Communications  
Iowa Conference, The United Methodist Church  
2301 Rittenhouse Street  
Des Moines, IA 50321



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People Integrating People

# THE HAWK EYE

## Iowa conservatives targeting gay marriage

Groups plan to raise issue during elections.

By MIKE GLOVER

The Associated Press

DES MOINES — Conservative leaders have promised to make gay marriage a central issue in next year's legislative elections and governor's race, and they're considering a push to oust the Iowa Supreme Court justices whose ruling legalized same-sex unions.

Iowa Christian Alliance President Steve Scheffler said his group will focus first on lobbying lawmakers during the legislative session that starts in January to amend the state constitution to ban gay marriage. Legislators who don't support that effort could find themselves facing opponents recruited and financed by the alliance, Scheffler said.

"We're going to encourage people, especially in key legislative races that are going to be competitive," Scheffler said.

Gay marriage has been legal in Iowa since April after a unanimous Iowa Supreme Court upheld a lower-court ruling that found a state ban on same-sex marriage violated the Iowa Constitution.

To amend the Iowa Constitution and overturn the law, lawmakers in two general assemblies — formed every two years after a general election — would have to approve a resolution that would then go to voters. If lawmakers approved it in the next legislative session and in 2011, the issue would go to voters in 2012.

But Democrats who hold majorities in both legislative chambers resisted taking up the matter last session, and if they do the same in the session that starts in January, the earliest the issue could reach the ballot would be 2014.

"I don't see it as likely we get to this issue in the next session of the Legislature," said Senate Majority Leader Michael Gronstal, D-Council Bluffs.

Gronstal said lawmakers are under enormous pressure with a projected shortfall of nearly \$1 billion in the state budget, and they've already decided to shorten the next session to 80 days to save money. That rules out debate on a lot of issues, he said.

Despite Gronstal's long-standing opposition to taking up gay marriage, Bryan English, spokesman for the socially conservative Iowa Family Policy Center, said his group hasn't given up and plans to lobby legislators, including Democrats from more conservative districts.

"Everyone has their pressure point, and Mike Gronstal has a majority he wants to maintain," English said.

The issue also has come up in the governor's race, with some Republican candidates making gay marriage a focal point of their campaigns and accusing others of not being as committed to overturning the law. All the Republicans seeking the nomination oppose same-sex marriage and have criticized Democratic Gov. Chet Culver for not pushing to put the issue before voters.

Among the most outspoken has been Sioux City businessman Bob Vander Plaats, who has said if he were governor, he would issue an order blocking enforcement of the Supreme Court decision. Culver's office has said such a move would be illegal.

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**State Sen. Jerry Behn, another Republican candidate for governor, has taken another approach, calling for voters to oust three Iowa Supreme Court justices who will be on the ballot in 2010.**

**Under Iowa's system, judges are appointed through a merit-selection process, then voters decide whether to keep them in office. Supreme Court judges are up for retention every eight years.**

**Behn, of Boone, has argued for replacing Chief Justice Marsha Ternus and Associate Justices Michael Streit and David Baker when they come up for retention next year.**

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